



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



Testimony presented to the Environment Committee of

The Connecticut General Assembly

By the Connecticut Department of Agriculture

March 16, 2012

**H.B. 5409 AN ACT CONCERNING PET SHOPS AND CONSUMER
REIMBURSEMENT FOR CERTAIN VETERINARY EXPENSES AND
PROHIBITING PET SHOPS FROM SELLING DOGS AND CATS
OBTAINED FROM SUBSTANDARD DOMESTIC ANIMAL MILLS**

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture supports H.B. 5409.

Many animals are successfully purchased from Connecticut pet shops every year. However, from time to time, a consumer brings the pet home and despite everybody's best efforts the animal begins to display an illness. In an effort to treat their companion animal, the consumer may become burdened with excessive veterinary bills for the pet that their family has bonded with.

Currently, Connecticut General Statute 22-344b only allows for the reimbursement of the veterinary expenses if the animal dies or if the consumer returns the animal to the pet shop.

The reality is the companion animal owner and their families have become attached to their pet and are forced to make a monetary decision and surrender the animal to the pet shop where the pet was originally purchased. This causes emotional turmoil in the family and is disruptive to the ill animal.

This Bill allows for partial financial protection to the consumer so that in the event their new pet becomes ill, there will be financial protection in the form of a five hundred dollar reimbursement for veterinary expenses, without the heartbreak of returning their companion animal to the pet shop.

Welcoming a new pet into a household should be a happy experience and not turn into a financial nightmare for Connecticut families.

Thank you for consideration of the views of the Connecticut Department of Agriculture.